

# MEDINA COUNTY JUVENILE AND PROBATE COURT NEWSLETTER

JUDGE KEVIN W. DUNN APRIL 2014

## COMMUNITY MEMBERS GATHER FOR 26TH ANNUAL SHARE CLUSTER BREAKFAST



Court Administrator Sharon Danko invites all student honorees on stage to receive their Outstanding Senior Awards.



Standing: Commissioner Adam Friedrich, Medina County Recorder Colleen Swedyk, Commissioner Stephen Hambley, United Way of Medina County Director Seth Kujat. Seated: Medina County Juvenile and Probate Court Administrator Sharon Danko and Community Service Supervisor Vera Stanley



Danko poses with law enforcement officers from local communities at the 26th annual Share Cluster Breakfast Meeting.

Special thanks to Russell Huston for providing photos from the Share Cluster Breakfast Meeting.

Community members from local agencies and Court personnel joined Medina County Share Cluster for the 26th annual Share Cluster Breakfast Meeting Friday April 25 at Williams On the Lake.

More than 175 people attended the event to celebrate the organization's dedication for non-violent, drug free living, as well as to recognize and honor 16 high school seniors who choose to live drug and violence free lives.

Members from local schools, police departments, mental health agencies, MCDAC, ADAMH Board, United Way of Medina County and Medina County Juvenile and Probate Court were in attendance. After enjoying breakfast, provided by Williams on the Lake, Juvenile and Probate Court Administrator Sharon Danko introduced the first and second place winners for the Medina County Suicide Prevention Coalition video contest. The PSAs, created by students from Medina and Cloverleaf High Schools, convey the themes that "The Time is Now" and "You Are Not Alone"

to help raise awareness about suicide prevention.

In addition to the suicide coalition PSAs, this year's outstanding seniors also participated in "Putting a Face on Prevention." In the video, the teens explain why they choose to be positive role models and live a drug, alcohol and violence-free life. The students shared stories of witnessing the negative effects of drug use first hand within their families and realizing that in order to achieve their goals and have a successful future, they need to make the correct choices now. Each senior received a copy of the video, produced by Brunswick Area Television, as well as local schools to show to other students.

After watching the videos, Retired Reverend Beth McGuire and Medina High School Prevention Counselor Cathy Lasher were surprised with Community Service Awards for their dedication and work in the community.

The awards continued when Danko invited the 16 outstanding high school seniors to stage to be recognized for their willingness to be positive role models in the community. Each student received a plaque and commendation on behalf of the Medina County Commissioners, presented by Commissioner Friedrich.

Danko reports that in this school

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Students residing in Medina County, grades 6-12, were encouraged to participate in the 2013 Stomp Out Suicide video contest and create a 60-120 second DVD educating others on suicide risk factors and what actions to take if they know someone who is suicidal. Cloverleaf High School earned first place for their video "Standing Together" and won 1,000 dollars for their school. Medina High School earned second place.

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year alone, Share Cluster has had 600 Huddle/Shuddle Leaders, impacting almost 5,500 fourth, fifth and sixth grade students.

When those student leaders combine with approximately 52 other agencies participating in leadership programs Share Cluster has sponsored in the past 26 years, they have had over 20,000 leaders impact more than 160,000 middle and high school students.

"It would be an understatement to say we have been busy," Danko said. "Dedication and collaboration drive this group. I can personally say that I have never been involved with a group that has lasted so long and has generated such positive results."

Share Cluster is comprised of members from local schools, Cornerstone Wellness, Medina County Home, Juvenile and Probate Court, the Juvenile Detention Center, Big Brothers Big Sisters, Rape Crisis Center, Medina County Drug Abuse Commission, Medina County Health Department, Medina County Sheriff's Department, Solutions Behavioral Healthcare, Inc. and the Children's Center of Medina County.

## THREE NEW CORRECTIONS OFFICERS JOIN JDC STAFF

Ron Stollar, Medina County Juvenile Detention Center Superintendent, said the detention facility was down six officers in March, leaving him and other administrators the task of finding the right people to fill the vacancies. Since the end of March, three of the positions have been filled. Below the newest Correction Officers to join the JDC staff to help supervise juveniles detained in the 30-bed facility.

### Adam Bennett

Bennett, who joined the JDC staff March 24, has worked previously in private security. Bennett also completed law enforcement training at the University of Akron Police Academy.

Stollar said apart from his background in security, Bennett also volunteers at a senior citizens center.

### Derrick Porter

After earning his associates degree in criminal justice from Lorain County Community College, Porter worked in law enforcement with the LaGrange Police Department as a part-time officer.

"He's easy going," Stollar said. "His experience in law enforcement really helps him with skills in deescalating situations, which is important when you're dealing with the youth in here."

Porter was hired as one of the newest corrections officers at the Medina County Juvenile Detention Center April 21.

### Brian Seeley

Seeley was also hired at the juvenile detention center March 24. Stollar said he believes Seeley's experience as a part-time pastor provides necessary skills when dealing with youth.

"Even before he became an ordained minister, he volunteered with church youth groups and vocational bible school," Stollar said. "He has a lot of experience with kids and it allows him to be more laid back and calm with them in here."

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## JUVENILE AND PROBATE COURT CLOSING

Medina County Juvenile and Probate Court will be closed Monday, May 26, 2014 for Memorial Day. Court will resume May 27, 2014 at 8:00 a.m.